

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183483 TOSEC 190107

FOL RPT LAGOS 8506 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 23

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8506

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI

SUBJ: GARBA REQUEST FOR MEETING JULY WITH SECRETARY

REF : STATE 181979

1. SUMMARY. IN BRIEF EXCHANGE JULY 23 GARBA INDICATED TO CHARGE HE WANTS TO SEE THE SECRETARY URGENTLY AND WISHES DISCUSS PRINCIPALLY (A) BILATERAL U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS AND (B) AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE KENYAN/UGANDAN SITUATION. RECOMMEND SECRETARY RECEIVE HIM, AND REQUEST TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING ASAP. END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING UNDER SOMETHING LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS, CHARGE APPROACHED COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA JULY 23, AFTER LATTER HAD HELD JOINT MEETING WITH CHIEFS OF MISSION OF INDUSTRIALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REGARDING INDIGENIZATION (SEPTTEL), AND ASKED GARBA IF HE COULD INDICATE SUBJECTS HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY JULY 30. GARBA AT FIRST RESPONDED "I AM NOT GOING TO TELL YOU ANYTHING*" LATER, AFTER A REMARKABLE SHOUTING EXCHANGE WITH INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ROY (SEPTTEL), GARBA SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED AND DREW CHARGE ASIDE TO SAY
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THAT HE HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR SANU AND TO ASK WHETHER

HE HAD THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY. CHARGE SAID WE HAD SIMPLY HEARD APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN REQUESTED AND DEPARTMENT HAD SAID IT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INDICATION OF SUBJECTS COMMISSIONER MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS. GARBA SAID HE WANTED PRINCIPALLY TO TALK ABOUT (A) BILATERAL MATTERS AND (B) AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. THINKING GARBA MIGHT HAVE MISSPOKEN AND INTENDED TO SAY "MULTILATERAL MATTERS," CHARGE ASKED IF HE MEANT BILATERAL U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS. GARBA SAID HE DID BUT WOULD NOT ELABORATE. REGARDING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, CHARGE SUGGESTED THIS WOULD INCLUDE ANGOLA AND ZIMBABWE, BUT GARBA INDICATED MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN EAST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. CHARGE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GARBA'S MISSION TO KENYA AND UGANDA HAD FORESTALLED VIOLENCE THERE. GARBA OBSERVED HIS TRIP HAD BEEN ESSENTIAL AND SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE GENERAL SITUATION WITH THE SECRETARY

AND SEE WHAT HIS VIEWS WERE. GARBA ADDED THAT HE PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE MEETING AND WOULD GO ANYWHERE NECESSARY TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY. GARBA WENT ON SOMEWHAT LAMELY TO EXPLAIN THAT IT HAD BEEN SOME TIME SINCE HE HAD TALKED WITH THE SECRETARY, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH HIM. CHARGE ASKED IF HE HAD OTHER POINTS TO RAISE, BUT HE REPLIED IT WAS PRINCIPALLY THE TWO MATTERS: BILATERAL ISSUES AND AFRICAN ISSUES, ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE SOME OTHER MATTERS TO RAISE. GARBA WOULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC, AND AS OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION WERE CLOSING IN ON US, THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER.

3. COMMENT: GARBA WAS OBVIOUSLY WORKED UP OVER HAVING TO COME AND DISCUSS INDIGENIZATION WITH MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND HIS FIRST BRUSQUE RESPONSE TO CHARGE APPEARED TO REFLECT THAT RATHER THAN DISPLEASURE WITH U.S. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE CLEARLY MATTERS OF SERIOUS AND PRESUMABLY URGENT CONCERN HE WISHES DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY. THOSE RELATING TO EAST AFRICA MAY VERY WELL REVOLVE ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION ON KENYAN/UGANDAN CONFRONTATION, PRESENCE OF U.S. PATROL PLANE AND CORVETTE, ARMS SUPPLY TO KENYA, ETC. THE REAL PUZZLER IS WHAT ARE THE BILATERAL U.S.-NIGERIAN ISSUES OR RELATIONS HE WISHES TO DISCUSS. WE HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING QUITE A NUMBER OF SUCH, BUT THEY ARE ALL PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH NIGERIA, NOT VICE VERSA: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PROUTY CASE, GUTHRIE CASE, PETROLEUM COMPANY PROFITS SQUEEZE, DELAYS ON NIGERIAN VISAS FOR AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHERS, ETC. WE HOPE SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE SOME OF THESE MATTERS, BUT WHAT GARBA HIMSELF HAS IN MIND IS HARD TO DIVINE.

4. AT ALL EVENTS IT IS CLEAR THAT GARBA, POSSIBLY ACTING UNDER ORDERS FROM SMC, URGENTLY WISHES TALK WITH SECRETARY ON MATTERS OF SOME MOMENT TO HIM. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY

RECEIVE HIM IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND THAT WE BE INFORMED OF TIME
AND PLACE OF JULY 30 MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN PASS
IT TO GARBA WITHOUT DELAY. HE IS CLEARLY UNDER PRESSURE AND IN
A TOUCHY MOOD; A SPEEDY RESPONSE WOULD AT LEAST HELP GET THE
MEETING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT.

CROSBY

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